

Appl. No. 10/647,758
Reply to Office Action mailed December 17, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A silt retention sheet comprising:
a ~~water-permeable~~ non-woven web adapted to retain silt while permitting water to pass therethrough; and[,]
at least one reinforcing element ~~attached to said water-permeable non-woven web at a predetermined location~~ for receiving a fastener for attaching the silt retention sheet to a support member.
2. (currently amended) The silt retention sheet of claim 1, wherein said ~~water-permeable~~ non-woven web comprises spun bond polyester.
3. (original) The silt retention sheet of claim 1, wherein said reinforcing element comprises a woven or non-woven band.
4. (original) The silt retention sheet of claim 3, wherein said band comprises a plurality of reinforcing strands.
5. (currently amended) The silt retention sheet of claim 4, wherein said plurality of reinforcing strands ~~comprises~~ comprise fiberglass, a polymeric material, or a combination thereof.
6. (currently amended) The silt retention sheet of claim 1, further comprising a second ~~water-permeable~~ non-woven web layered on said first ~~water-permeable~~ non-woven web.

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7. (currently amended) The silt retention sheet of claim 6, wherein at least one reinforcing element is disposed between a portion of said ~~first water-permeable~~ non-woven web and a portion of said second ~~water-permeable~~ non-woven web.

8-17. (canceled)

18. (new) The silt retention sheet of claim 5, wherein said polymeric material comprises polypropylene, polyester, nylon, or any combination thereof.

19. (new) The silt retention sheet of claim 3, wherein said band is formed from woven polymeric belts, plastic strips, twisted yarns, spun yarns, cord, rope, spun fibers, or any combination thereof.

20. (new) A silt retention sheet comprising a nonwoven web having at least one reinforcing element embedded therein, wherein said nonwoven web is permeable to water and substantially impermeable to silt.

21. (new) The silt retention sheet of claim 20, wherein said at least one reinforcing element comprises a plurality of reinforcing bands positioned at spaced locations.

22. (new) The silt retention sheet of claim 20, wherein said at least one reinforcing element comprises a series of strands woven or spun to form a band.

23. (new) The silt retention sheet of claim 22, further comprising a reinforcement border.

24. (new) A silt retention system comprising:
a filter material for filtering and retaining silt from a fluid while permitting the fluid to pass therethrough, the material including at least one reinforcing element; and

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a support member for anchoring the filter material, the support member being fastened to the reinforcing element.

25. (new) The silt retention system of claim 24, wherein said at least one reinforcing element comprises:

- (a) a woven or non-woven band of reinforcing material;
- (b) a patch of reinforcing material;
- (c) a plurality of reinforcing strands;
- (d) a plurality of reinforcing strands woven or spun to form a band;
- (e) a reinforcing border; or
- (f) any combination thereof.

26. (new) The silt retention system of claim 25, wherein said filter material is permeable to water and impermeable to silt.